

THE CLAIMS

The Claims of the application as amended are:

1. (Currently Amended) A tension board for guiding a workpiece across the surface of a cutting machine table, comprising: a body having a peripheral portion extending peripherally along a plane extending transversely through said body, and having means for mounting said tension board upon the surface of a cutting machine table with said transversely extending plane of said body parallel to the cutting machine table surface, and at least one resiliently deformable bow member comprised of a strip of material having opposite end portions fixedly attached at mutually spaced, different points along ~~a first edge~~ said peripheral portion of said body and projecting generally arcuately from said different points, away from said body on said transversely extending plane thereof, laterally over the surface of the cutting machine table when so mounted, whereby said bow member can deform resiliently toward said body to cooperate with upstanding structure on the cutting machine table to apply lateral force to a workpiece pushed therebetween.

2. (Original) The tension board of Claim 1 wherein said body is generally planar, and wherein said bow member extends substantially in the plane of said body.

3. (Original) The tension board of Claim 1 wherein said body and said bow member are integrally formed, as a single piece.

4. (Original) The tension board of Claim 3 fabricated from a synthetic resinous material.

5. (Currently Amended) The tension board of Claim 1 wherein said means for mounting comprises at least one slot extending through said body in a direction normal to said transversely extending plane.

6. (Currently Amended) The tension board of Claim 5 wherein said at least one slot is rectilinear and extends on an axis generally perpendicular to an axis between said spaced points along on said peripheral portion ~~first edge~~ of said body.

7. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The tension board of Claim 1 additionally including a second said bow member projecting from ~~a second~~ said peripheral portion edge of said body at a location spaced peripherally from said at least one bow member.

8. (Withdrawn) The tension board of Claim 7 wherein the force generated by deformation of said at least one bow member is different from the force generated by said second bow member at the same extent of deformation.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The tension board of Claim 1~~ A tension board for guiding a workpiece across the surface of a cutting machine table, comprising: a body having means for mounting said tension board upon the surface of a cutting machine table, and at least one resiliently deformable bow member comprised of a strip of

material having opposite end portions fixedly attached at mutually spaced, different points along a first edge of said body and projecting generally arcuately from said different points, whereby said bow member can deform resiliently toward said body to cooperate with upstanding structure on the cutting machine table to apply lateral force to a workpiece pushed therebetween, said tension board additionally including a tension gauge element attached to one of said body and said strip of material, said tension gauge element cooperating with an element on the other of said body and said strip of material to indicate the level of force generated by said bow member in a deformed state.

10. (Original) The tension board of Claim 9 wherein said tension gauge element has a free outer end portion spaced from the other of said body and said strip of material when said strip of material is in its non-deformed state, deformation of said strip of material bringing said free outer end portion of said gauge element into contact with said cooperating element on said other of said body and strip of material and being indicative of a level of force generated by said deformed bow member.

11. (Original) The tension board of Claim 10 wherein said tension gauge element is disposed within the space between said body and said strip of material.

12. (Currently Amended) The tension board of Claim 2 additionally including an array of resiliently deflectable fingers extending parallel to one another from ~~another edge~~ said peripheral portion of said body to which said fingers are attached.

13. (Original) The tension board of Claim 12 wherein said array of fingers extend substantially in said body plane.

14. (Original) The tension board of Claim 12 wherein said fingers are substantially identical.

15. (Withdrawn) The tension board of Claim 12 wherein most of said fingers are substantially identical, and wherein at least one of said fingers is substantially shorter than said identical fingers, said at least one finger being so formed as to reduce its rigidity and thereby enable all of said fingers to apply substantially the same force to a workpiece guided therealong.

16. (Withdrawn) The tension board of Claim 15 wherein all of said fingers are of substantially the same width and thickness along the lengths thereof, and wherein said at least one finger is formed with an indentation proximate its point of attachment to said body so as to provide such rigidity reduction thereto.

17. (Original) The tension board of Claim 2 additionally including a single, resiliently deflectable tab element extending outwardly from said body in said plane thereof.

18. (New) In combination, a cutting machine having a table with a surface; and a tension board for guiding a workpiece across said cutting machine table surface,

said tension board comprising: a body having a peripheral portion extending peripherally along a plane extending transversely through said body, and having means for mounting said tension board upon said surface of said cutting machine table with said transversely extending plane of said body parallel to said cutting machine table surface, and at least one resiliently deformable bow member comprised of a strip of material having opposite end portions fixedly attached at mutually spaced, different points along said peripheral portion of said body and projecting generally arcuately from said different points, away from said body on said transversely extending plane thereof and laterally over said cutting machine table surface, whereby said bow member can deform resiliently toward said body to cooperate with upstanding structure on said cutting machine table to apply lateral force to a workpiece pushed therebetween.